

REMARKS

Claims 21, 22, 24-28, 30-34 and 38-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 21, 22, 27, 28 and 30-34 are amended and claims 23, 29 and 35-37 are canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found, for example, in the canceled claims. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims in view of at least the following remarks.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Payer at the interview held June 1, 2009 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejection of claim 29 is moot because claim 29 is canceled. Applicants amend claims 27, 28 and 30-32 to recite "[a] computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer-executable program." Based on this amendment, Applicants assert that claims 27, 28 and 30-32 are now directed to statutory subject matter and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The rejection of claim 29 is moot because claim 29 is canceled. As discussed above, Applicants amend claims 27, 28 and 30-32 to recite "[a] computer-readable storage medium that stores a computer-executable program." As indicated in the Office Action, this amendment is supported, for example, at page 16, line 5, of the specification. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 21, 24-27, 30-33 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0143012 (Block) and rejects claims 22,

23, 28, 29 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Block in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,915,024 (Kitaori). The rejection of claims 23, 29 and 35-37 is moot because these claims are canceled. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 21, 22, 24-28, 30-34 and 38-40.

Block in view of Kitaori fail to disclose and would not have rendered obvious "an alteration unit which alters memory contents of the separation condition memory" where the "separation condition memory . . . stores at least one selected from an editing code, a single character, a particular character string and a particular character string attribute as the separation condition." The Office Action acknowledges that Block fails to disclose the above features (Office Action, page 6). The Office Action alleges that Kitaori cures Block's deficiency. Applicants respectfully assert that Kitaori does not.

The Office Action alleges that Kitaori's delimiter character list 14 constitutes the claimed separation condition memory (Office Action, page 6). Kitaori discloses a delimiter character detector 2 that has a delimiter character list 14 (C7:L41-42). The Office Action acknowledges that Kitaori does not disclose the claimed alteration unit but alleges that the alteration unit is inherent (Office Action, page 6). The Office Action bases the inherency argument on the assertion that "storing a separation condition in memory without the ability to modify it would render it useless" (Office Action, page 6).

Kitaori discloses that the delimiter character list 14 is a list of predetermined characters that the delimiter character detector 2 detects for dividing data text (C7:L24-28). Kitaori further discloses that the delimiter character list 14 is stored in advance (C7:L41-43). Importantly, Kitaori does not disclose that the delimiter character list 14 is modified. Rather, because Kitaori discloses that the delimiter character list 14 is a list of predetermined characters and that the list is stored in advance, Kitaori discloses implicitly, if not explicitly,

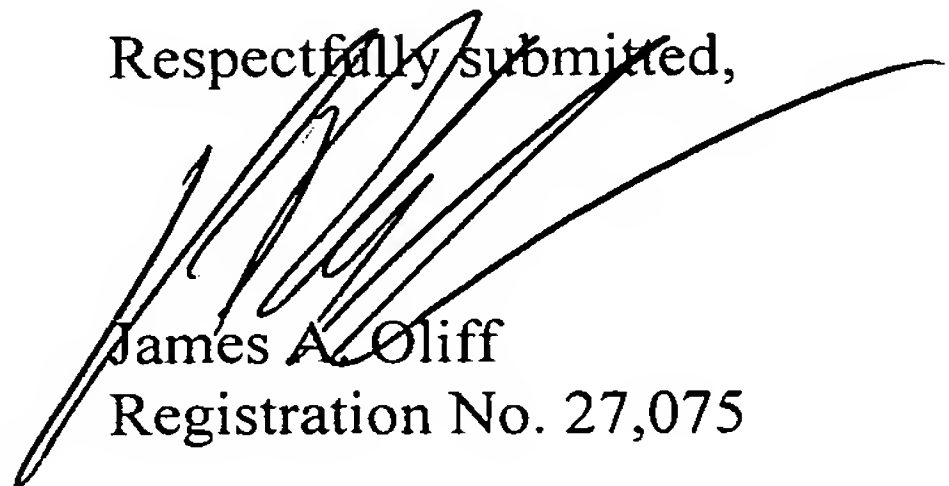
that the delimiter character list 14 is not modified. Because the delimiter character list 14 is not modified, Kitaori fails to disclose a unit that modifies the list.

The allegation that the inability to modify the delimiter character list 14 ignores the use of the delimiter character list 14. The use of the list is to store all of the characters. By storing all of the predetermined characters in the delimiter character list 14 in advance, the list does not need to be modified because the list already includes all of the characters for the delimiter character detector 2 to detect. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed alteration unit is not disclose nor implicitly suggested in Kitaori. Thus, Kitaori fails to cure the deficiency of Block. Because Kitaori fails to cure the deficiency of Block, claims 21, 22, 24-28, 30-34 and 38-40 are patentable over Block in view of Kitaori. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: June 8, 2009

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